

What is claimed is:

1. A method for intermediating communication, with a moveable media library, utilizing a plurality of partitions, comprising:

providing a bridge unit to pass commands to an external controller, wherein said bridge unit is operable to associate a plurality of logic units (LUNs) with said external controller;

associating each of said plurality of partitions to one of said plurality of LUNs;

receiving a library command at said bridge unit from a host system;

passing said library command to said external controller; and

translating said library command to a command for an internal controller according to said plurality of partitions, wherein said internal controller is operable to perform library operations associated with said translated command.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

creating said plurality of partitions, wherein resources of said moveable media library are assigned to partitions of said plurality of partitions.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said receiving a command at said bridge unit, comprises determining a Fibre Channel World Wide Name (WWN) of said host system.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said passing said library command to said external controller comprises determining a LUN of said plurality of LUNs associated with said library command.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said passing said library command to said external controller comprises determining whether said host system is authorized to access said LUN.

6. The method of claim 4 further comprising passing, by said bridge unit, said library command to said external controller via said determined LUN.

7. The method of claim 4 wherein said library command identifies a virtual device and said external controller determines a physical device corresponding to said virtual device according to the respective partition of said determined LUN.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said library command is a read element status command, and said method further comprising:

sending a read element status command to said internal controller;
removing selected library resources identified by a message from internal controller in response to said read element status command;
renumbering remaining library resources; and
sending a response message including said renumbered remaining library resources.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein a first command is received by said external controller via a first LUN of said plurality of LUNs and a second command is received by said external controller via a second LUN of said plurality of LUNs, and wherein said first command and said second command require a common library resource. said method further comprising:

queuing one command of said first command and said second command, until the other command is completed.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said external controller emulates a virtual moveable library controller for each of said plurality of LUNs.

11. A system for intermediating communication, with a moveable media library, utilizing partitions, wherein said moveable media library comprises an internal controller that is, in part, operable to control a robotics subsystem in response to commands received via a control interface, said system comprising:

a bridge unit that is operable to pass library commands to an external controller, wherein said bridge unit is operable to associate a plurality of logic units (LUNs) with said external controller; and

said external controller that is operable to process library commands from said bridge unit, wherein said external controller associates each partition of a plurality of partitions with a respective LUN of said plurality of LUNs, and said external controller is further operable to translate received commands from said bridge unit for communication to said internal controller according to said plurality of partitions.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein said bridge unit is a Fibre Channel (FC) to Small Computer System Interface (SCSI) bridge.

13. The system of claim 11 wherein said bridge unit is operable to determine a World Wide Name (WWN) of a host system in response to receiving a library command from said host system.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein said bridge unit is operable to determine a LUN of said plurality of LUNs for communicating said library command to said external controller utilizing, in part, said determined WWN.

15. The system of claim 11 wherein said external controller is operable to renumber virtual elements into physical elements before passing a command to said internal controller.

16. The system of claim 11 wherein said external controller is operable to remove identification of library resources that do not belong to a partition of said plurality of partitions in response to an identification query command associated with said partition.

17. The system of claim 11 wherein said external controller is operable to queue a first command while waiting for said internal controller to complete operations associated with a second command when said first command and said second command require a common library resource.

18. A system for intermediating communication, with a tape library, utilizing partitions, wherein said tape library comprises an internal controller that is, in part, operable to control a robotics subsystem in response to received commands, said system comprising:

means for bridging communication from a communication fabric to an external controller means, wherein said means for bridging is operable to associate a plurality of logic units (LUNs) with said external controller means; and

said external controller means for processing library commands from said bridge unit, wherein said external controller means associates each partition of a plurality of partitions with a respective LUN of said plurality of LUNs, and wherein said external controller means translates received commands from said bridge unit for communication to said internal controller via according to said plurality of partitions.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein said fabric is a Fibre Channel fabric.

20. The system of claim 21 wherein said means for bridging communication is a Fibre Channel-to-Small Computer System Interface bridge.

21. The system of claim 18 wherein said external controller means is operable to translate virtual library elements to physical library elements.